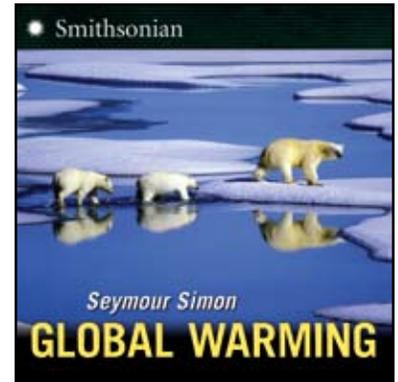


GLOBAL WARMING

S E Y M O U R S I M O N

Earth's climate has been changing rapidly. This change is often referred to as global warming, and it affects every living thing on the planet—plants, animals, people, even you. When certain gases, known as greenhouse gases, are released into the atmosphere, they trap heat from the sun, making it difficult for Earth to cool down. Changing temperatures cause animals to migrate to cooler climates, ice caps and glaciers to melt—raising sea levels and flooding land—and plants to die because they can't adapt to new growing conditions. Climate change is creating an unlivable environment for many of Earth's inhabitants.



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Even though humans can't erase the damage, people can prevent further harm by working together and "living green." Living green means working as a team to change human behaviors that contribute to climate change. So what can you do about global warming? Read these simple tips and create the projects below with your family and friends and start living a cleaner, greener lifestyle today.

TIPS

- ▶ Walk or bike to school, a friend's house, or the park instead of having Mom or Dad drive you there. If somewhere you're going is too far to bike, try taking public transportation. Walking, riding a bike, and even taking public transportation causes fewer greenhouse gases to be released into the atmosphere than driving a car does.
- ▶ Bring a sturdy bag with you when you go shopping instead of asking for a disposable plastic bag to carry your purchases. The greenhouse gases released during the production of plastic bags add to climate change.
- ▶ Plant a tree or large shrub in your backyard. Trees produce oxygen, which helps rid the atmosphere of greenhouse gases. One tree can make enough oxygen for the lifetimes of two people.
- ▶ Bring a reusable lunch bag, water bottle, and other reusable food containers instead of disposable bags, plates, and utensils. By reusing containers and bags you will create less waste, which is difficult for the environment to break down.
- ▶ Help Mom and Dad change traditional lightbulbs in your house to energy-saving fluorescent bulbs. These new bulbs reduce carbon dioxide emissions and save money on electric bills.
- ▶ Turn off all electric appliances like TVs, radios, and computers when you're not using them. Using less electricity reduces the amount of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere and also saves money on electric bills.



PROJECTS

- ▶ Create your own pillowcase tote bag
- ▶ Plant your own vegetable garden
- ▶ Create your own wrapping paper
- ▶ Make a recycled toy boat
- ▶ Make your own toothbrush bracelet



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TOTE-ALLY COOL BAG

An easy way to reduce waste is to bring a sturdy bag with you whenever you go shopping. Creating your own tote bag is a fun and stylish way to bring anything you buy at a store home without having to use plastic bags, which cause tons of carbon dioxide emissions to be released into the atmosphere during production. This bag is simple to make and fun to design, and is a great way for you to make a difference.

You will need:

- One pillowcase in good condition
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- Decorations for the pillowcase (You may want to use fabric markers, fabric paint, buttons, and string.)
- Two 2-inch-thick pieces of decorative fabric used for handles, each about 3 feet long
- Pins

Instructions:

1. With the help of a parent, find a pillowcase that's in good condition and can be used for the bag. Cut one vertical side and the bottom of the pillowcase along the seam with a pair of scissors.
2. Turn the pillowcase inside out and re sew along the original vertical seam to start creating the bag. Cut off the corners of the unsewn bottom seam and re sew the horizontal seam. This will leave you with a bag that has a rounded bottom edge.
3. Turn the bag inside out again so the designed side is now on the outside of the fabric. At this point you may want to decorate your bag with markers or paint, or by gluing buttons, string, or other items to the outside of the bag.
4. When the bag is dry, take the 2-inch-thick strips of decorative fabric and fold them in half lengthwise to begin creating the bag's handles. Pin the edge of one of the strips to the inside of one of the bag's sides. Repeat with the second strip on the opposite side of the bag. Sew the edges of the strips to the inside of the bag to create the handles and remove the pins. Now you're ready to show off your new bag while you're shopping!

GLOBAL WARMING

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NOT YOUR GARDEN VARIETY GARDEN

Growing your own vegetables is not only nutritious, but it's fun and rewarding too! In a few simple steps you'll be on your way to growing your own food without having to drive to the market in order to create a tasty meal. Dinner never tasted so good!

You will need:

- A sunny spot in your backyard
- Newspaper
- Fresh soil
- Trowel
- A variety of vegetable seeds (Some vegetables especially good for growing are tomatoes, zucchinis, pumpkins, cucumbers, and beans.)
- Watering can

Instructions:

1. With the help of a parent, find a sunny patch of ground in your backyard where you can start your garden. Layer this piece of ground with old newspapers and place a layer of fresh soil, about an inch thick, on top of the newspaper.
2. Using the trowel dig a few small holes, evenly spaced apart, through the fresh soil and newspapers into the ground beneath. Place one type of vegetable seed in each hole, cover the holes with the fresh soil, and water the soil until it's damp. You can find out which plants grow best in the region in which you live by researching vegetable gardening on the internet or at your library.
3. Continue to water your garden throughout the season. The newspaper will prevent weeds from growing, and you may also want to mulch your garden. One way to do this is by layering old grass clippings over the soil. Mulch will also help fight off weeds and keep your vegetables strong and hydrated.
4. Once your vegetables have grown, collect them in a bucket, wash them, and help Mom or Dad prepare a delicious meal right from your own backyard!
Bon appetit!

GLOBAL WARMING

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WRAP-TUROUS WRAPPING PAPER

There's no better way to add an extra-special touch to a gift than by creating your own decorative wrapping paper. You can reuse brown paper grocery bags by converting them into dazzling wrapping paper works of art! You may want to use certain colors or shapes for holidays; but no matter how you decorate your wrapping paper, remember, you're giving Earth the gift of recycling.

You will need:

- Brown paper grocery bags in good condition
- Scissors
- Items to decorate your wrapping paper (You may want to use markers, crayons, paint, glitter, buttons, and stencils.)

Instructions:

1. With the help of a parent, cut open a brown paper grocery bag down one edge and remove the bottom of the bag.
2. Turn the bag over so the blank unprinted side is facing up at you. Decorate the bag any way you want and let it dry. Make sure to decorate the bag festively for any upcoming holidays or special occasions.
3. Once the bag has dried, gently turn it over so your decorated side is now on the table. Place your gift in the center of the paper and wrap your gift. You've created your own wrapping paper, which is sure to add a special touch to any gift you give.

GLOBAL WARMING

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A BOATLOAD OF FUN

Create your very own toy boat with a few items lying around your house. Reusing items to create new things instead of buying brand-new toys that were produced using fossil fuels is a great way to reduce carbon emissions.

You will need:

- One empty juice carton
- Scissors
- Heavy construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- One long straw
- Tacky adhesive

Instructions:

1. With the help of a parent, cut off one of the long sides of a juice carton with a pair of scissors. This will be the top of your boat.
2. Cut out two medium-size squares from heavy construction paper to create the sails. Cut two small slits in each square. You may want to decorate the sails with markers.
3. Next, take a straw and thread it through the slits in the construction paper. Take a piece of tacky adhesive and mold it around the bottom of the straw.
4. Finally, anchor the straw into the bottom of the juice container with the adhesive. Once the mast is securely anchored, you can fill the bathtub part way with water or visit a park with a pond and play with the toy boat you just created out of simple household objects! *Bon voyage!*

GLOBAL WARMING

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BRUSH UP YOUR WARDROBE

Make a green fashion statement with trendy, easy-to-make bracelets that will enhance any wardrobe! You can make a bracelet using basic tools in your house and any old plastic toothbrush. Accessorize your school outfits, create friendship bracelets, or give these bangles out as party favors. Layer different styles, designs, and colors together for a glam look!

You will need:

- Pot (used to boil water)
- An old plastic toothbrush
- Pliers
- Tongs
- Glass (with cool water)

Instructions:

1. With the help of a parent, boil a pot of water on the stove. While the water is boiling, remove the bristles of an old plastic toothbrush with a pair of pliers.
2. Once the bristles have been removed and the water has boiled, place the toothbrush into the boiling water for about five minutes.
3. Remove the toothbrush with a pair of tongs and gently bend the edges of the toothbrush with the pliers to form a cuff. You may want to mold the toothbrush around the glass to create the right shape. Then place the toothbrush in the glass of cool water to help the plastic retain its new shape.
4. Remove the bracelet from the cool water after a few minutes and show off your new recycled jewelry with pride.

GLOBAL WARMING

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